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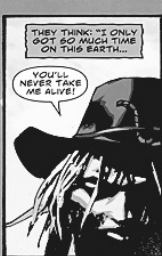
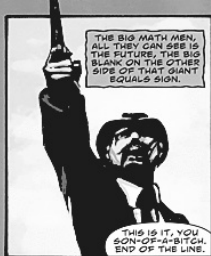
SOMEONE ONCE
TOLD ME THAT THERE
ARE BASICALLY TWO
KINDS OF OUTLAWS
IN THE WORLD.

THE LITTLE MATH
OUTLAWS AND THE
BIG MATH OUTLAWS.

THE LITTLE
MATH MEN,
ALL THEY SEE
IS WHAT'S IN
FRONT OF
THEM. THEY
GOT BILLS,
THEY GOT
NEEDS, AND
NO WAY OUT.

HOLD IT
RIGHT THERE,
SWEET!







SO I DIDN'T
KNOW MATH
FROM HORSESHIT
IN THE ROAD.

AND THEN I STABBED HIM
THROUGH THE EYE-HOLE
AND TOOK OFF.



Platte River, Idaho-1919.

LET'S GIVE OUR ACTORS ONE LAST ROUND OF APPLAUSE. PLAYING OUR HERO, FAMED LAWMAN JAMES BOOK, THE THESPIAN TRUITY BELLE.

AND PLAYING THE DASTARDLY FIEND, SKINNER SWEET, STRAIGHT FROM THE STAGES OF NEW YORK CITY, BLAIR BILLINGS!

AREN'T THEY WONDERFUL?

COLONEL SELDOM FRENCH.

I HAPPENED UPON A FLYER FOR HIS WILD WEST SHOW WHILE I WAS PASSING THROUGH TOWN THIS MORNING.

I FIGURED WELL, SKINNER, YOU GO SOME TIME, GO GET YOURSELF SOME CULTURE.

WILD WEST BROUGHT TO LIFE

FUNNY, THOUGH--I SEEM TO REMEMBER THE WEST A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY THAN COLONEL SELDOM FRENCH.

IN FACT, I REMEMBER THE COLONEL A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY, TOO.

THE FRENCH I KNEW WAS MORE OF A PAMPERED YANKEE BRAT THAN A HERO OF THE PLAINS...

...SHOOTING BUFFALO FROM THE COMFORT OF HIS FAMILY'S ARMORED STAGECOACH TO MAKE COATS TO SELL BACK EAST.

NICE COATS, TOO. I ROBBED THREE LOADS ONCE.



AND NOW, LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN, I'M
AFRAID OUR JOURNEY
HAS COME TO AN
END.

OUR GRAND VOYAGE
BACK THROUGH TIME TO THE
FRONTIER OF OUR NATION'S
HISTORY, BUT BEFORE WE
BID YOU ADIEU...

...LET'S GIVE ONE
MORE ROUND OF APPLAUSE
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF
OUR ESTEEMED "CONGRESS
OF LIVING LEGENDS OF
THE WEST!!!"

WELL, WELL, SEEMS
INSTEAD OF BUFFALO FURS,
THE GOOD COLONEL HAS
TAKEN TO COLLECTING OLD
COWBOYS AND INDIANS.

FIRST, INFAMOUS
CHIEF HOWAHKAN, ONE
OF THE FIERCEST BRAVES
THE WEST EVER KNEW.
KILLER OF SCORES OF
MEN, WOMEN AND
CHILDREN.

ALSO KNOWN
AS CHIEF
DUMB-AS-A-
ROCK, WALKED
HALF HIS MEN
INTO A
SLAUGHTER AT
WHITE FINGER.

THE HONORABLE
GENERAL MILES FORSYTH,
HERO OF THE BATTLE OF WHITE
FINGER PASS, 1879, WITH JUST
A FEW LOYAL MEN, GUNNED
DOWN UPWARDS OF 60 OF
HOWAHKAN'S MURDEROUS
BRAVES.

REAL HEROIC, GUNNING
THEM DOWN WITH
REPEATERS WHEN YOU
GOT THEM CAUGHT IN A
BOTTLENECK A HUNDRED
FEET BELOW YOU.

NEXT, WE HAVE
BLACKFACE CHARLIE BOYD,
ONE OF THE MOST NEPARIOUS
SCOUNDRELS IN THE OLD WEST!
ROBBED MORE THAN TEN
STAGES IN THE SIERRAS. NOT
EVEN A SHOTGUN BLAST TO
THE FACE COULD SLOW
HIM DOWN.

SHOTGUN? IT WAS
A GUNPOWDER CIGAR
DID THAT. THAT
FUCKER CAN'T TAKE
A JOKE, EITHER.

DETECTIVE
WILLIE SIRINGO...ONE
OF THE MOST FEARED
OUTLAW TRACKERS
IN THE WEST.

AND NOTED
HOMOSEXUAL.

THIS IS THE LIVING
LEGENDS PANEL!
REALLY TRULY?

AND LAST BUT NOT
LEAST, MS. KITTY BANKS--
ONE OF THE WEST'S MOST
FAMOUS SOILED DOVES... MADAM
OF THE NOTORIOUS ROCKER PAN
BROTHEL IN SWISS BOY
COLORADO... LOVER OF MANY
OUTLAWS, MOST NOTABLY,
SKINNER SWEET.

...KITTY? OH
COME ON.

SEE NOW, THAT'S
JUST DOWNRIGHT
DEPRESSING.





HOW COULD YOU, DOLLY? YOU WERE A GOOD ONE, TOO, AND AFTER ALL YOUR SWEET, NAKED PILLOW TALK TO ME ABOUT GOING DOWN IN FLAMES, DYING YOUNG...

THIS IS HOW YOU END UP IN A TRAVELING WAX MUSEUM SITTING NEXT TO A BUNCH OF PHONY JACKASSES TOO DUMB TO DIE RIGHT? ONE OF THE LIVING DEAD?

I'LL REMEMBER YOU PRETTY, KNOW THAT.

NOW, I THINK I'VE HAD ABOUT ALL THE CULTURE I CAN STOMACH.

THAT'S RIGHT! THE KITTY BANKS!



THE ONLY WOMAN TO GET CLOSE TO SKINNER SWEET'S COLD BLACK HEART... HIS GIRL. HIS "DOLLY."



UNTIL THAT FATEFUL NIGHT SHE HAD A CHANGE OF HEART AND TURNED SWEET IN.



TIPPING OFF HIS WHEREABOUTS TO THE AUTHORITIES...



TIPPING OFF...?



YOU KNOW, ON SECOND THOUGHT, THESE PEOPLE WANT THE WEST BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE SO BAD? WHY NOT GIVE THEM WHAT THEY PAID FOR?





AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FOR THE FINALE TO OUR SECOND PERFORMANCE TODAY, A GRIPPING RE-CREATION OF THE SHOOT-OUT AT SIDEWINDER.

THE HEROIC CAPTURE OF SKINNER SWEET BY FAMED LAWMAN JAMES BOOK!



WHERE THE HELL IS THAT SHIT-NOSE BLUNDER?

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?

THAT SON-OF-A-BITCH IS ALMOST AS USELESS AS THE DRENCH-UP OLD STICKS ON THE LEGENDS BAR.

YOO-HOO! HERE I AM!



JUST GETTING INTO CHARACTER.

FINALLY.

AND HERE WE GO, FOLKS! PICTURE IT!



WE'RE IN THE TREACHEROUS MOUNTAINS OF COLORADO. THE YEAR IS 1880 AND NOTORIOUS OUTLAW SKINNER SWEET HAS EVASIED CAPTURE ONCE AGAIN, OR HAS HE...?

SCENE!



YOU CAN RUN, SWEET, BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE ANYMORE!



STAND AND FIGHT LIKE A... MANT?



YOU DON'T
DESERVE TO WEAR
JIM BOOK'S
NAME!



WHAT--
WHAT'S GOING
ON?



HOWDY,
FRENCHIE.



SKINNER?
SKINNER SWEET?
BUT THAT'S...
IMPOSSIBLE.

NOT TODAY.
TODAY, THE
WEST COMES
BACK TO
LIFE!

FOR ALL OF US! DURING THE
INTERMISSION, I TOOK THE
LIBERTY OF LOADING THOSE
WEAPONS YOU GOT ON YOU
WITH LIVE AMMO.

...AMMO?

SO
NOW
ABOUT
IT?

HOW ABOUT WE
WALK THE WALK, BOYS?
TIME TO STOP PLAYING
COWBOYS AND INDIANS
AND BELLY UP TO
THE BAR.

DON'T... DON'T
YOU EVEN THINK
ABOUT IT! YOU
CAN'T! WITHOUT
ME, WITHOUT THE
SHOW... YOU'RE
ALL JUST A
BUNCH OF
NOBODIES.

A BUNCH OF
DUSTY OLD,
FORGOTTEN...

...YOU
HEAR ME?
YOU CAN'T
DO THIS!









YOU SURE
GOT A FUNNY
WAY OF
SHOWING IT.

SLEEP
TIGHT,
DOLLY.



YOU'RE NOT EVEN
GOING TO THANK
ME?

THANK YOU?
I'M ABOUT TO
TEAR YOUR HEAD
OFF, KITTY.



HOW ABOUT YOU
START MAKING
SENSE.

BUT ALL
I EVER WANTED...
WAS TO GIVE YOU
THE ENDING YOU
WANTED. THE
RIGHT ENDING.



IT WAS ALL
OVER EVERYTHING.
THE WORLD WE
KNEW. PAVED OVER.
FENCED IN.

EVERYONE
SAW WHAT WAS
COMING,
EVERYONE
EXCEPT YOU.



HEY, YOU REMEMBER THAT
TIME I TOOK YOU DOWN THE
RIVERBED, AND WE THREW
OUR CLOTHES--

YOU WERE
TELLING A
STORY. ABOUT
TURNING ME IN.



OH, RIGHT. SEE THAT
LAWMAN, BOOK, HE
WASN'T EVER GOING TO
LET YOU SHOOT IT
OUT WITH HIM.

HE WASN'T GOING TO GIVE
YOU THAT. YOU COULDN'T SEE
IT, BUT I DID. HE WAS GOING
TO CATCH YOU, HANG YOU IN
FRONT OF A CROWD OF
NOBODIES.



HE WAS GOING TO
MAKE A POINT OF YOU,
BABY. IT MADE ME SICK
JUST THINKING ABOUT
IT. YOU DESERVED
BETTER.



YOU DESERVED TO GO OUT IN FLAMES OF GLORY. SO I DID IT, I CALLED UP CAMILLO, TIPPED HIM OFF...

I JUST DIDN'T KNOW BOOK WAS ALREADY SO CLOSE. I THOUGHT... I THOUGHT IT'D BE CAMILLO AND HIS MEN, AFTER THE REWARD.



BUT THEN BOOK CAME AND... AND YOU LEFT ME.

WE'D GO OUT THE WAY WE SHOULD'VE. ALL I EVER WANTED WAS TO GO DOWN WITH YOU, BABY. TOGETHER.

I FIGURED THEY'D COME THAT NIGHT, ARMED TO THE TEETH, AND YOU AND ME, JESSE AND THE TWINS, WE'D ALL GO DOWN TOGETHER. FIGHTING.

WHY'D YOU LET THIS HAPPEN TO ME, BABY? WHY'D YOU LET ME GET OLD?

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU I COULD TURN THINGS BACK? MAKE YOU YOUNG AGAIN. FOREVER.

THAT'S SWEET, BABY. BUT BEING YOUNG AGAIN, THAT DON'T MATTER TO ME NOW. NOW THAT THE WORLD WE BELONGED TO IS GONE.

EXCEPT
FOR US.

EXCEPT
FOR YOU,
BABY. IT WAS
ALWAYS IN
YOU.

THE
WEST, IT'S
WHEREVER
YOU GO.

I'M GOING
TO MISS YOU,
KITTY.

YOU'LL FIND
ANOTHER GIRL.
YOU KNOW YOU
WILL.

NOW
GO ON, GET
OUT OF MY
DREAM!

THE WORLD WE KNEW,
THE WORLD I LOVED--
IT'S DEAD AND BURIED.
I KNOW THAT GOOD
AS ANYONE.



BUT FUNNY THING IS...LATELY
DEAD DON'T SEEM SO
PERMANENT TO ME ANYMORE.



NOT AT
ALL.





SURE, PAL. SKY'S ALL OURS. WIDE OPEN. SO WHERE TO?





"I HEAR THEY GOT
SOME PRETTY
GIRLS THERE."



STRANGE FRONTIER

SCOTT SNYDER writer — DANIJEL ZEZEJ artist
— DAVE MCCAIG colors — STEVE WANDS letters
cover by RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE — MARK DOYLE editor
AMERICAN VAMPIRE created by SCOTT SNYDER

Next:
Ghost War!

AMERICAN VAMPIRE

MARK DOYLE EDITOR

AMERICAN VAMPIRE #12

Hi everybody.

"American Vampire" editor Mark Doyle here. What an awesome launch we had last year. HUGE thanks to all of you for reading and spreading the word about the book. From talking it up at your local shop, to tweeting about your favorite characters, all of it helps to build buzz and made us one of the hottest new titles of 2010. So thank you!

BUT! I'm here to tell you—we're just getting warmed up! Lots of great stuff to look forward to in 2011...

First, Vertigo is bringing back the letters column! I don't know about you, but I LOVE letters columns and I can't wait to hear from you. Send me your questions, comments, suggestions—whatever you got! I know we have a great, big, bold and growing bunch of AV fans out there and I look forward to hearing from you.

Now watch out, boys and girls, because we have a HUGE story planned for you in 2011. Scott, Rafael and the gang are jumping ahead in time again to a crucial moment in American History—World War II. We move to the war in the Pacific for a story with new vampires, old grudges and, of course, that bastard we love to hate, Skinner Sweet, and Our Gal Pearl are at the heart of it all!

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL! In June we're launching an all-new American Vampire miniseries! I can't say too much about it yet, but the incredible Sean Murphy will be collaborating with Scott for this story. Until we can tell you more, check out this cool variant cover for issue 13 below.

Send me those letters!

—Mark



To submit a letter to the editor go to:
www.dclatterspage.com

Letters may be sent by regular mail to this address:

Letters to the Editor
DC Comics
1700 Broadway
New York, NY 10019
ATTN: VERTIGO

Please include your full name, address, and telephone number for confirmation purposes. Letters should be no longer than 500 words and should not include attachments. Letters may be edited for length or clarity and may be published in any medium. Letters become the property of DC Comics. Unpublished letters will not be returned or acknowledged. Published letters may identify the writer by first name, hometown, state or country.

NEXT MONTH:



VERTIGO

SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO:
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THE HOTLIST



NOCHE ROJA

The New Vertigo Crime Book that Publishers Weekly calls "Gripping...numerous twists and turns."



NORTHLANDERS #37

A new storyline kicks off with "The Siege of Paris!" This is a grunt's-eye view of a relatively unsung chapter in Viking history.

AMERICAN VAMPIRE #12 • DAYTRIPPER
DMZ #62 • DMZ VOL. 9: M.I.A.
FABLES #102 • HELLBLAZER #276
HELLBLAZER: PANDEMONIUM
HOUSE OF MYSTERY #34
HUMAN TARGET: SECOND CHANCES
IZOMBIE #10
THE NEW YORK FIVE #2 (OF 4) • SCALPED #46
SCALPED VOL. 7: REZ BLUES • SWEET TOOTH #18
THE UNWRITTEN #22

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THE HIT LIST

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ON THE

LEDGE

BY CHRIS ROBERSON

DON'T TELL HIM I SAID THIS, but I sometimes think of Bill Willingham as my very own Fairy Godmother. A few years ago, with a dozen novels to my name and not a dime in the bank, facing the prospect of returning to the dreaded DAY JOB, I got a call from Bill one day, offering me the chance to write a miniseries featuring Cinderella, Fabletown's greatest spy.

Of course I said "YES!" right away. Isn't that what you do when wishes are granted?

See, what Fairy Godmother... erm, Bill, I mean... what Bill didn't know is that I had wished that Cinderella miniseries into existence. A year or so before, I'd mentioned to fellow Tick Tock Man (as we members of the Clockwork Storybook writers group call ourselves) Matthew Sturges that I thought Cinderella was a fantastic character, and that I wished she'd get her own miniseries. What I didn't tell Matt was that, if Bill ever did do a Cinderella miniseries, I was going to trick him into letting me write it somehow. I didn't know HOW I would trick him, of course, but that was a minor detail.

So I got to write CINDERELLA: FROM FABLETOWN WITH LOVE, and to work with Shawn McManus and Chrissie Zullo and Shelly Bond and the rest of the gang. It was a blast to write, a dream come true. But all good things come to an end, and as much as I wished I could keep going, eventually my time with Cinderella was at an end.

Then, a few months later, my wife and I were watching a movie featuring another fairy tale character, and I suddenly realized that that character would make a perfect archnemesis for Cinderella. I e-mailed Bill that night, handing him the idea and insisting that he use it in FABLES sometime.

The next morning, I awoke to find the response from my Fairy GodBill in my inbox. He wanted me to write up the idea as a formal proposal and send it over to Shelly Bond, pronto. I outlined a story in which a simple murder investigation quickly spirals into a much larger mystery, and as her search takes her from Russia to the Caribbean and all points in between, Cindy is brought face-to-face with her archnemesis, an assassin long thought dead. But if Cindy's nemesis is still alive, that is serious bad news for Cindy, for the rest of the Fables, and for the whole world.

And now I'm writing CINDERELLA: FABLES ARE FOREVER. Another wish granted.

So, Bill? Fairy GodBill? Have I mentioned that I also want a pony, a jetpack, and a functioning lightsaber?

Just saying.

--Chris

CHRIS ROBERSON

is the New York Times best-selling writer of the Vertigo ongoing comic book series iZombie, co-created with artist Mike Alfred, and the Cinderella spinoffs of Bill Willingham's popular Fables series.



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